



European Union for Progressive Judaism

June ~ July 2015 Newsletter

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President's Message



**EUPJ officers and rabbis in Madrid with
representatives of our Spanish communities**

Earlier this month a group of EUPJ officers and our Rabbinic Adviser, Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim, joined by Rabbis Joel Oseran of the WUPJ and Alona Lisitsa (an Israeli rabbi serving communities in Spain on a part time basis) visited six communities in Spain: Barcelona (two), Madrid, Oviedo, La Coruna and Rota. Over Shabbat each community received a visit from one representative and on Sunday we all got together in Madrid to discuss planning for the future of our movement in Spain. A full report on the purpose and activities of this event are found on page 5 in this newsletter. Later this month a similar group will visit Warsaw for discussions with leaders of our community and those of the Union of Polish Jewish Communities. A report on this will appear in our next newsletter.

The theme "Is there a future for the Jews in Europe?" and variations thereon is flavour of the month at international Jewish conferences at present. After all, it's a compelling subject – and a serious one. I am somewhat cynical about many of the "experts" on this subject who in reality are journalists who have to write something interesting and get interviewed on the subjects they write about. And anecdotal evidence that is "bad" catches attention more so than that which is "good".

Of course there is bad European news – and Toulouse, Charlie Hebdo, the Brussels Jewish Museum and Copenhagen were shocking events. But if the subject is as major as drawing

conclusions on the future of the Jews anywhere – the United States with assimilation the main threat, Israel where there are internal demographic and external existential threats and Europe where the main (not



the only, but by far the most serious) threat is extreme Islam operating within democratic societies, then one has to take a far more holistic view than reaching conclusions based on a few shocking events.

Back to my opening a paragraph. Twenty years ago a discussion on the future of the Jews in Europe would not even have mentioned Spain and Poland. Today they are high on the agenda of the EUPJ. They are Jewish "growth" countries with a resurgence of Jewish life, with a genuine interest by those states in reclaiming Jewish history as part of their national history, and with far, far more positive things happening for Jewish communities than negative.

Perhaps one should be a pessimist with pleasant surprises now and then when things go well. That way one avoids disappointment. On the subject of European Jewry, I would think that to be a miserable philosophy. We have seen somewhat of a miracle in our time – we are obligated to press forward with optimism. Just take a look at the contents of this newsletter!

Leslie Bergman



EUPJ Biennial Conference
14th -17th April 2016
London

Save the Date

See page 3

EUPJ Honorary Officers and Staff 2015

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A cooking tour through the EUPJ

Tina Wasserman, the Jewish culinary historian, cookbook author and food writer for the Progressive movement in North America, recently visited with many EUPJ congregants in London, Munich, Warsaw, Copenhagen and Rome. She was given the great opportunity to learn and to teach some of our traditional recipes in Warsaw and Rome and shared stories about our personal religious journeys with EUPJ members in London and Munich. London participants brought some of their family favourites to the home of Irit Burkeman who hosted our informative and friendly afternoon.



Tina Wasserman

Congregants from Beit Warszawa in Warsaw were introduced to pareve apple kugel, potato latkes, Sephardi dulce de manzana, a sweet apple conserve laced with rosewater that is traditionally served at rosh hashanah, and they also learned how to create a six strand braided challah. Meanwhile, congregant Wojlaw Mrozowski showed Tina how to make traditional mushroom and sauerkraut filled pierogi.

When in Rome, Libyan-born chef and restaurant owner Daniela Gean hosted a cooking party in her lovely home where Tina learned how to make tortellini (traditionally served in Northern Italy for Rosh Hashanah) from Franca Eckert-Cohen, a founder and first President of the Progressive synagogue Beth Hillel Roma. Daniela made mafrum, a Libyan dish of meat stuffed vegetables and brik dough which she filled with fried egg. Amos Guetta made a delicious Sabbath dish from Tripoli with whole fish stewed in a spicy tomato, garlic paprika sauce laced with caraway seeds and Argentinian born Esther Livdi made a honey cake from her Russian heritage whose basic sweetness came from caramelised sugar and orange juice as well as some honey which created a light textured variation of the traditional Rosh Hashanah cake.

Tina returned home to Dallas thrilled with her experiences and challenged to re-create these recipes in a format to share with the worldwide Jewish community. The synagogues were given copies of her cookbooks to advance further the congregations' understanding and connection to Jewish culinary traditions.

Here are links to Tina's recipes: [kugel](#), [latkes](#), [dulce](#), [challah](#)

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Subscribe to the EUPJ Newsletter [here](#).

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Synagogues everywhere

Progressive congregations and Shabbat services can be found nearly everywhere during your travels. Click on a blue link to find a synagogue near your destination.

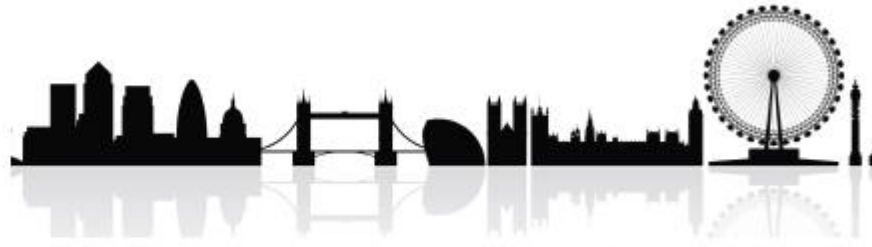
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Save the Date

LONDON

14th - 17th

APRIL 2016

**Come together at
the first ever EUPJ
Conference to
be held in London**

We will be based in the heart of this unique city, with opportunities to worship in our oldest flagship synagogues, experience Progressive Jewish learning and meet old and new friends from around the world.

Grand opening celebration at The Guildhall – a 12th century landmark where events are held to welcome heads of state and now, the European Union for Progressive Judaism.

Join us in London for the opportunity also to celebrate the 90th birthday of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and 60 years of the Leo Baeck College.

For more information go to www.eupj.org

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**Building
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**14th - 17th
APRIL 2016**

Anat Hoffman visits Holland

Anat Hoffman, director of the Israeli Religious Action Center (IRAC) and a founder of Women of the Wall, visited Holland, coming from London where she was part of Liberal Judaism's Day of Celebration.

In Holland she gave three talks: 14 June in Amsterdam (the first David Lilienthal Lecture), 15 June in The Hague and 16 June in Utrecht.

Anat was inspiring to hear, and very well received.



Anat Hoffman

Francine Püttmann

Director, General Affairs, Levisson Institute

Shavuot in Twente



LJG Twente children receive a blessing at the end of service. The kiddush 'Sinai Tart' baked by Gonnie Blok.

The LJG Twente held a wonderful Shavuot service in a fully packed shul that was specially decorated with spring flowers. There was much singing and with such a beautiful day, the congregation was able to enjoy kiddush outside with special dishes baked for the occasion. In addition the children received a special blessing at the end of the service.

The photos were taken by Daan Daniëls.

Wilhelmina Hein, Board Clerk, LJG Twente

Levisson Institute issues its Annual Report

In the year 2013-2014 / 5773-5774 the Levisson Institute celebrated two milestones.

On May 18, 2014 Clary Rooda was the seventh rabbi to receive her s'micha from the Levisson Institute. Her thesis subject was eco-kashrut. She continues to work as a pastor at the Psychiatric Hospital Parnassia in The Hague and as a freelance rabbi for the Progressive Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands.

In 2014 our rabbis were recognised by the CCAR, the Central Conference of American Rabbis. CCAR President Rabbi Rick Block wrote on April 9:



'I am pleased to inform you that based on the favourable recommendations of the examining committee, composed of the HUC-JIR professors Firestone and Meyer, the board of the CCAR has voted to admit to membership, upon application, rabbis ordained by the Levisson Institute'.

This must be seen in the specific context of the Dutch situation, in which the Levisson Institute trains rabbis, but (so far) does not grant MAs or BAs. Obviously we are very proud of this decision. Many people have worked very hard to demonstrate the quality of the programme as well as that of the rabbis who were trained here.



Ordination: Rabbis Clary Rooda & David Lilienthal

Apart from these two milestones last year, the Institute continued to offer follow-up courses and refresher courses for our rabbis, shlichei tzibbur and Talmud Torah teachers who work at the Progressive Jewish Congregations in The Netherlands.

My wish is that the Levisson Institute will contribute to the dialogue between the diverse religious and ideological groups in our country, so we can end the lack of knowledge of, and indifference and prejudice towards others by participating in the dialogue with other cultures.

We'ahavta lere'acha k amocha, 'love the other as yourself' is the Golden Rule on which Torah is based," said Hillel. "Now go and learn!"

Rabbi Menno ten Brink, LLM
Dean of the Levisson Institute

Spain

Spain's Progressive fact-finding mission plans communities' future



Rabbis Ruven Bar Ephraim, Alona Lisista and Joel Oseran lead Shacharit in Madrid

Over Shabbat Naso at the end of May, EUPJ rabbis and lay leaders visited the six Spanish communities that are members of the EUPJ with the aim of assessing the current state of the movement in Spain, identifying and developing future growth areas. Delegates of each community and the EUPJ leadership met in Madrid for Havdalah and an orientation to the issues confronting our movement in Spain. Then, after Shacharit the following day, a second meeting was convened to discuss ways of creating a mechanism for increased communication and co-operation among the Spanish communities. Currently, the movement's presence in the country is comprised of two communities in Barcelona, one in Rota, one in Oviedo, one in Galicia and an emerging *Havurah* in Madrid. The two locations that have been identified as key to the movement's growth in Spain are Madrid and Barcelona, mainly because of size and potential.

For Madrid, a critical factor for the development of this community will be the transformation of the *Havurah* into a viable congregation. The *Havurah* is working closely with congregation Beit Shalom in Barcelona and that community's leader Jai Anguita. Rabbi Joel Oseran, Vice President for International Development for the World Union for Progressive Judaism, works closely with the EUPJ leadership in Europe and has been integrally involved in the development of the Progressive movement in Spain. Oviedo's Kehillat Emunah hosted Rabbi Oseran over the Shabbat; he had the opportunity to meet with several prominent city officials and learn about the variety of Jewish-themed events that have recently been held in the city.

Participants in the fact-finding mission came away with the conclusion that there is a gifted group of local leaders in Spain committed to Progressive Judaism. What remains to be done, according to Rabbi Oseran is to "find creative ways to integrate these independent communities into a unified movement that will make an impact on Spanish Jewry."

The meeting in Madrid was an important step towards establishing a Progressive movement identity in Spain.

Shavuot 5775/2015 at Bet Emunah

We celebrated Shavuot as usual at Laudy and Haim's beautiful place, with great weather, too. This year we had the joyful participation of Elena



Shavuot in Bet Emunah

Benitez, who came to share this holiday Shabbat and Shabbat Shacharit with us from Cordoba in Andalusia (840 kilometers by car). From "abroad" we also had a visit by our friends Jacinto and Paco from Leon, our neighbouring province.

We read the Torah portion and had time for comments and discussion about the Book of Ruth, all this under a beautiful and warm sun.

We blessed the wine and challot made by Golda's magic hands and later had a magnificent oneg full of different dishes that all the participants brought.

As every year we had a photo session amidst laughter and companionship and afterwards everyone sang along with a very diverse repertoire of songs, from Flamenco and Mexican songs to Jewish folk songs and Sephardic songs sung by Sarah. The evening was another great memory, and once again we were able to share Shavuot as a community!

Aida Oceransky

Shavuot at Atid



Shavuot at Atid

We celebrated Chag HaShavuot in our community for a whole weekend. Thanks to the generosity of our members, after the Arvit (Ma'ariv) service, we enjoyed a holiday dinner with a range of sweet and savoury dishes, mainly dairy as is the tradition. All certainly delicious!

After feeding our bodies late at night, it was time to feed our knowledge. Our dear morá Moriah guided us in the tikkun Shavuot, a special occasion to study and remember one of the most important events in the history of the Jewish people: receiving the Torah. During the tikkun, we all, including our Judaism 3.0 students, learned the special relationship between Ruth the Moabite and Shavuot. We also had the opportunity to deepen the meaning of the festival from a surprising point of view in which the earthly and divine embrace enhance the possibility for each one of us to be exceptional individuals. A Shacharit service and kiddush on Sunday morning concluded to the celebration of Shavuot.

France

Mazal tov!

All of Kehilat Geshar (and the EUPJ) are very proud to announce that our member, Stéphane Beder (President of the Fédération du Judaïsme Libéral en France and Vice-Chairman of the EUPJ), has been elected Senior Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.



Stéphane Beder

with an eye-opening presentation in good humour, of how to procure water from the rock – with gematria providing an explanation. Most of the 23 participants in the evening held out until after midnight, concluding with a study of extracts from the Talmud showing why one should not give up in the face of apparently obscure or contradictory texts!

We all thoroughly enjoyed trying to get our heads round the subjects presented and left with a mutual promise to hold a similar evening – or night - of study next year, after this highly successful and appreciated one.

Celia Naval

Copernic Prize 2015

The ULIF each year awards individuals or institutions who have worked to promote dialogue, brotherhood and peace in the world. This year the Copernic Prize goes to 1) Mrs Latifa Ibn Ziaten, whose son Imad was assassinated in 2012 in Toulouse, President and founder of the Association Imad for Youth and Peace, for her commitment to secularism and inter-religious dialogue and 2) to Jean-Christophe Taghavi, laureate of the Civic Service Institute, co-founder of the association "CAP* ou pas cap?" (*Understand and Act in Paris) which promotes citizen initiatives in Paris.

On Friday June 19, at 19:30, the jury members were proud to give them both the Copernic Prize. The ceremony took place in the synagogue after Kabbalat Shabbat services.



Mrs Latifa Ibn Ziaten

Shavuot at MJLF in Paris



Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur with Richard Lenoir, Le Monde editor for religious subjects, during the café biblique session in the MJLF synagogue sanctuary

Shavuot at Keren Or, Lyon

Our Leyl Shavuot activities followed after Havdalah and a short Erev Shavuot service led by Rabbi René Pfertzel.

By popular assent, we started a rich evening of study and discussion by partaking in savoury dairy-based food: a cheese salad, a variety of cheese tarts or quiches and of course, bread and cheese.

Satisfied that we were sufficiently fortified to study, we listened to our rabbi's presentation of this festival and then started on the first of four study sessions prepared by members. This first was a highly documented and well illustrated piece on the theme of 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth', so often interpreted to the detriment of Jews and Judaism. Here this principle was given considerable depth and relevance, linking it to concepts incorporated in various legal systems. The next theme brought us down to earth – literally, with an overview of the place and role of nature in the Shavuot festival and more generally in the bible and our prayers.

Needing something sweet to chew on, we then readily succumbed to a selection of desserts, mainly cheesecakes, where several productions were in serious competition!

The second part of the evening offered us a consideration of Moses, the rock and water, ending

MJLF celebrated its fifth Shavuot "crazy night" with the traditional mix of joyful services, serious study and cultural fun. After the evening service, Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur led a full house "café biblique" discussion, followed by a rousing Klezmer concert that shook the synagogue walls. Rabbi Yann Boissiere explained the history of Middle Eastern writing and lay leaders took turns to discuss the significance of Ruth, an eye for an eye, Alexander the Great and Israel's modern miracles.

Cultural food included the Dustin Hoffman film "Lenny", with expert commentary on freedom of expression, and a quiz on animals in the Torah. The young adults group Yahad wrestled through the night to come to grips with the first 250 mitzvot.

As dawn approached, the rabbis shared an intimate moment with the faithful while improvising on the theme of physical gestures in synagogue prayer. Some 70 hardy souls were still present (some returning after a few hours rest) for the grand finale of Shacharit and to hear the pure voice of a recent bat mitzvah graduate chant the Ten Commandments from the Sefer Torah.

Shavuot a delight in Copenhagen



Rabbi Rebecca Lillian at Shir Hatzafon's Shavuot cheesecake extravaganza

This year's study evening / night to mark Shavuot for Shir Hatzafon, Progressive Judaism in Denmark, took place on May 23, accompanied by five different homemade cheesecakes. We were twelve, who under the leadership of Rabbi Rebecca Lillian, read, discussed, sang and ate. We explored among others the Book of Ruth, and learned why we read it for Shavuot. We also discussed Shavuot's status as the least popular of the three pilgrimage festivals. The question of why the Torah was given in the desert was also twisted and turned. As a novelty, we had three guests from Sweden who actively contributed to the lively and personal debate. It was an enjoyable and tasty evening that calls for being repeated annually.

Martin Salamon

Beit Orim news



Bet Orim's Rabbi Ferenc Raj at Judafest in Budapest

Bét Orim was well represented at Judafest in Budapest on Sunday 9 June. The links are in Hungarian with translation available on both Facebook pages.

Migwan Participates in US Ambassador's Freedom Seder



US Ambassador Suzi LeVine's Freedom Seder in Basel

On the evening of Friday April 3, three members of Basel's liberal Jewish community Migwan participated in a Passover seder hosted and led by Suzi LeVine, US Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Held at Topas Restaurant on the site of IGB, Basel's Jewish Einheitsgemeinde (Unity Congregation), guests represented a wide range of religious groups from Basel as well as from across Switzerland: Christian, Muslim and Jewish alike. Ambassador LeVine reflected, "It was a Seder unlike any I've attended or conducted."

Using a Haggadah developed by Ambassador LeVine herself specifically for the occasion, A Freedom Seder was patterned after the traditional Passover Seder but intended to encourage guests to talk about today's world and about people who still do not enjoy freedom. To carry the theme further into the realm of *tikkun olam* / healing the world, participants were asked to identify what can be done - here and now - to effect change.

Guests listed modern plagues such as hunger, poverty, injustice, climate change and discussed specific problems such as the plight of farm workers and the marginalisation of gays and lesbians within faith communities. Approaches to these problems included living by these philosophies: (1) love for all, hatred for none (which also happens to be the motto of the Muslim group whose Imams joined us for the Seder), (2) if you love the Creator, then you love all of the creations – with justice, (3) each one of us has the power to make a difference, therefore it is incumbent on all of us to take some positive action to address our modern plagues.

Seder guests also recognised the great importance of gatherings like Ambassador LeVine's "Freedom Seder" – in which people from diverse backgrounds come together to meet face to face to appreciate their deeply shared humanity – even if they have different faiths and beliefs.

Migwan attendees included Peter Jossi, president of the board of trustees, Migwan co-founder Irène Speiser and Religious Committee chair (and board member) David Conn. "Ambassador LeVine has created an extraordinary environment here for interfaith exploration and dialogue," Conn said. "The atmosphere is wonderfully positive. I hope this sets the stage for continued dialogue and for all of us to work together toward tolerance, mutual understanding and shared goals."

Edinburgh news

The June issue of our newsletter, [Lulav](#), is now published. It is, as ever, full of interesting articles, news, and information. I would commend to you in particular the piece by Rebekah Gronowski recalling the life of Ruzena Wood and the discussion by Michael Hornsby of the TV series *Transparent*.

Please note the arrangements for Pride Edinburgh in Rabbi Mark's notice of the event. Further details regarding the BBQ will be released nearer the time. Finally, please note that there is no Tea and Talmud or Philosophy Group this month.

Sukkat Shalom
Edinburgh Liberal
Jewish Community



Glasgow Reform Synagogue Shavuot celebrations

Glasgow Reform Synagogue hosted a successful Tikkun Leyl Shavuot evening on 23 May, beginning with a worship service and followed by a chavurah supper and an interfaith panel discussion 'Written in Stone'. Organised by Rabbi Kate Briggs

and moderated by Eileen Carroll, the panel included representatives from Interfaith Scotland, Episcopal Church, Baha'i Faith, Church of Scotland, Catholic Church, Islam and Reform Judaism. Each panellist was asked to identify the ten important things in their faith. Amongst the topics raised were the difference between tradition and ritual, life and death, agnosticism, and the coexistence of science and religion. The evening ended with a vote of thanks offered by Steven Anson and a presentation to each of the invited guests.

[Scott Chase](#)



Northwood's lightweight Sefer Torah



[Rabbi Aaron Goldstein leads the procession](#)

More than 250 members of Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS) paraded their new lightweight Sefer Torah through the streets, after a moving ceremony. The service began with members of NPLS guiding the quill of Sofer Bernard Benarroch as he completed the final words.

Rabbi Lea Muehlstein said: "It was truly momentous as each of us were given the opportunity to guide the scribe's hand in writing the final letters of the Torah. It was not simply the physical act of writing but the spiritual dimension of what it means to complete a Torah that made this moment so special and emotional."

The community then danced and marched out into the streets of Northwood. NPLS Emeritus Rabbi and President of Liberal Judaism, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein reflected on the lives and tragic deaths of the Jews of Czech and Slovak towns that had once owned the scrolls now residing in Northwood.

He said: "We are the custodians of their scrolls and the legacy of the Jews who once read from them. Let us live, remember and treasure the confidence we have as Jews living in Northwood."

The community then recited Kaddish together before returning to the synagogue to conclude the rituals.

The importance of the new Sefer Torah being lightweight was highlighted by a recent bat mitzvah girl who, when dancing with the scroll, stated: "I always knew this was my community, and now I know that this is my scroll as I helped to pay for it, and now I can actually carry it!"

MRJ Shirei Chagigah is 9-12 July

Shirei Chagigah is the new name for the Movement for Reform Judaism's biennial music conference. It means 'songs of celebration' and reflects the celebration of music and prayer which we will enjoy over this very special weekend. It will give you the tools and experiences to learn about and enjoy Jewish music and *t'fillah* (prayer) and is an opportunity to learn from the world's foremost experts in the field of Jewish liturgical music. Through a series of workshops and services you will explore the use of music to enhance religious services, learn new melodies and choral harmonies for traditional prayers and be part of a remarkable community.

Shirei Chagigah is not only for people who love to sing! For the first time we will be adding an extra dimension by having a programming stream dedicated to those in our communities who lead Shabbat services. Our Shaliach Tzibbur course is designed for you whether you have been leading services for many years or whether it's something you would like to start doing. It will be taught both by our American faculty and by our very own rabbis. In addition the MRJ Choirs Festival will take place on the Sunday from 10am to 5pm and be run by Cantor Cheryl Wunch & Viv Bellos, Director of Music at Alyth, and aims to enthuse, encourage and inspire synagogue choirs of all abilities from around the country. For further details please contact Cheryl on cheryl@alyth.org.uk or Viv on viv@alyth.org.uk

Come and join us as part of a truly memorable weekend where you can learn for yourself and learn to take back to your community.

Free Progressive Israel trip in August

Progressive Jews have the chance to visit Israel for FREE as part the new Birthright partnership with Liberal Judaism and the Movement for Reform Judaism. Open to any Progressive Jew aged 20-26, who has not already been on an organised educational visit to Israel. Date: 15-25 August. [More details here.](#)

United Kingdom

Liberal Judaism's Day of Celebration

A succession of speakers at Liberal Judaism's Day of Celebration have urged British Liberal Jews to get more involved in Israeli politics. Three hundred Liberal Jews from more than 30 communities gathered at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue for the Day of Celebration, with ages of delegates ranging from a four-month-old baby to members in their 90s. It was the first ever Liberal Judaism event to be streamed over the internet, making it a truly global occasion, with members and friends watching all over the world. Read more [here](#).

Rabbi Paul Freedman new Assembly of Rabbis Chair

Rabbi Paul Freedman has been elected as Chair of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis UK, taking over from Rabbi Sybil Sheridan. Rabbi Paul is Senior Rabbi at Radlett Reform Synagogue; a community he has served since 2004.



Read the full article [here](#).

Rabbi Paul Freedman

LJ Today

Liberal Judaism publishes a bimonthly award winning magazine for its members and friends. You can read the most recent edition by [clicking here](#).



RSY-Netzer Day Camp

RSY-Netzer are delighted to announce that booking for Day Camp this summer is now open. There are three camps; two in London and one in Manchester. [Read more](#).

About Pro-Zion

Pro-Zion is the UK-based organisation that works to support Progressive Judaism in Israel and to promote Israel in Progressive Jewish Communities in the UK. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Click the
logos for
news of UK
movements



Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky inducted at Menorah

Speech by Michael Reik



Induction of Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky at Menorah

It is with great pleasure that I as Vice Chairman of the EUPJ congratulate Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky today on his induction as rabbi to the Menorah community on behalf of the European Union for Progressive Judaism.

Fabian was born in Paraguay, obtained a degree in history and political science and a postgraduate degree in Jewish studies in Nashville, Tennessee. Fabian recently graduated from Abraham Geiger College and was ordained in Breslau, Poland, early last year. Abraham Geiger College based in Potsdam is one of three rabbinic seminaries that we support in the training of Progressive rabbis, the others being Leo Baeck College in London, and the Levison Institute in Amsterdam.

Since his ordination Fabian has already spent valuable time for the EUPJ, working with conversion students while travelling around Spain to different communities, in particular Beth Shalom in Barcelona. He also has recently spent time with our new community Beth Hillel in Rome. While still a student he helped at pulpits in Germany, Switzerland, and Sweden. So Fabian has already been involved at communities in five out of the 16 countries where the EUPJ support Progressive Judaism within Europe. And he is about to become the official rabbi in a sixth country here in Manchester.

In the United Kingdom the EUPJ is actively supported by the Movement for Reform Judaism and by Liberal Judaism. We are trying to achieve a similar situation within Europe where individual synagogues become part of a Progressive platform. This enables us to have greater status before the state authorities so that we can have standing equivalent to the orthodox communities in each country.

We look forward to Menorah and Rabbi Fabian forming a highly successful partnership that will enable us to welcome both at our next year's EUPJ conference that will take place in London.

Read the WUPJ report [here](#). More photos [here](#).



Sidur Beit Polin published

Polish Progressive Jews are celebrating the publication of Sidur Beit Polin - the first Progressive Hebrew-Polish prayerbook since 1932. It is a comprehensive 308 page siddur for weekdays, Sabbaths and holidays (except for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur). Beit Polska and Beit Warszawa welcomed the new prayerbook in a special ceremony on Friday 19 June.

The book is being published through the generosity of several organisations (first of all the EUPJ) and individuals. 1100 copies have been printed for the First Edition.

If you wish to know more about this publication, please contact me or Marek Jezowski, who is the author of most of the new Polish translations in this book.

Rabbi Dr Gil Nativ

Beit Warszawa bids farewell to Zivah and Rabbi Gil Nativ

Shabbat Korach, 19-20 June, was the last Shabbat for Zivah and Rabbi Gil in Beit Warszawa.

Zivah and Rabbi Gil invited all Beit Warszawa and Beit Polska members and all who had completed the Step by Step course in the past three years or were still attending it for a Farewell Party on the Shabbat afternoon at 17:00. There was a wonderful singalong session with Hebrew Songs and of course a round of Israeli folk dances - plus drinking Israeli wine - Le Chaim!

On Shabbat 27 June, we invite all children to Beit Warszawa from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the last Shabbat Gam Yahad, children's activities, before the summer break. Children will learn about Jewish traditions and religious customs through songs, folk dancing and arts and crafts projects. Join us!



Zivah and Rabbi Gil Nativ

Beit Krakow meets California



Rabbi Melanie Aron

For Shabbat on May 28 we had the pleasure of hosting at our service the congregation Shir Hadash of Los Gatos, California. The service was lead by the rabbi of Shir Hadash, Rabbi Melanie Aron, along with lay cantor Mark Allen. After the service as usual we had kiddush. This was an amazing opportunity to spend Shabbat with members of a reform congregation from other side of the world and to expand our circle of friends.

www.beitkrakow.pl

Warsaw Jewish Historical Institute collection is on line

Europeana and Judaica Europeana invite you to peruse the collections of the Centre of Judeo-Moroccan Culture, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, the JDC Archives, the YIVO and Leo Baeck Institutes in New York. Open-source tools for virtual exhibitions, interactive maps and thesauri are also presented. These are all exceptional resources for historians, curators, genealogists and anyone interested in European Jewish culture. Please follow the link to our newsletter [here](#) and our homepage at www.judaica-europeana.eu.

Shavuot in Stockholm

As is our tradition, Progressive Judaism in Stockholm held its Shavuot celebration in the romantic colony garden of Eva-Britt Henmark. Here Hilari is tasting one of the fantastically good cheesecakes. The sun shone while we discussed the book of Ruth from many perspectives. Immigration, what does it mean to stay or to return? Is Ruth a better person than Orpah? Why does Orpah disappear from the story? Which feminist viewpoint can help to understand the story, considering the law that prevailed when the story was written? With the fine weather, inspiring conversation and great food, a good time was had by all.



Shavuot in Stockholm

Doris Tomlinson

Beth Shalom Milan May-June News Fiddler in Rome



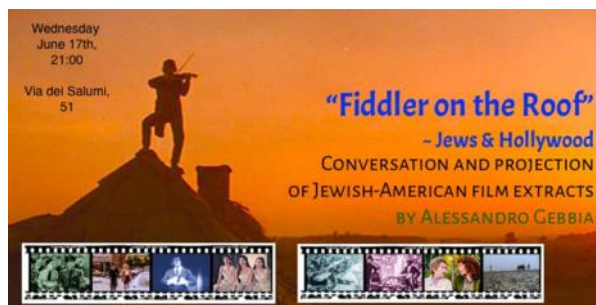
Rabbi Leigh Lerner, Bar Mitzvah of Eduardo Buaron

A special thank you to Rabbi Leigh Lerner. We have had the good fortune to have Rabbi Lerner with us for the third consecutive spring. This year he was more active than ever, traveling between Milan, Florence and Rome to conduct conversion classes. Even though he left Italy in mid-May, he is continuing to prepare 10 students via Skype. Most will be prepared to go before the EUPJ Beth Din this fall or next spring. Two recently received their *ghiturim* and have become members of Beth Shalom. Our heartfelt thanks go to Rabbi Lerner for all of his hard work.

On May 9 Beth Shalom celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Eduardo Buaron, son of Daniel Buaron, a long time patron of Beth Shalom. Rabbi Lerner prepared Eduardo for his Torah and Haftarah readings, which were beautifully done.

Beth Shalom took the lead in organizing the Birthright programme in Italy for the third year. Honorary President of Beth Shalom David Ross organized a group of 32 young people that will travel Israel for 10 days in July. By acknowledging patrilineal descent, the Progressive movement in Italy has opened this program to many young people who previously would have not qualified to go. We have organized a Jewish Book Group and held our first meeting on June 16 to discuss Bernard Malamud's *The Fixer*. At this initial meeting we decided on the other books we will read and also when and how often we will meet.

Carole Ross



The strong relationship between Jews and the world of cinema, particularly with Hollywood, is well known. A special occasion to talk about this subject was made possible thanks to the event organized by Alessandro Gebbia on Wednesday June 17 at 21:00 at Via dei Salumi 51, with the projection of rare movie clips. Many people attended and enjoyed our usual Beth Hillel Roma hospitality.

Shavuot at Beth Hillel Roma

Our second Shavuot celebration at Beth Hillel Roma was very successful. After a well attended Tefillah service followed by a dairy dinner, the Book of Ruth was read from an edition in three languages, so that everyone could understand it.

The program of shiurim was very interesting, intriguing and fun and lasted till midnight. Lessons varied from religious to social and cultural themes. We started with a very unusual topic: eroticism in sacred texts followed by a focus on women characters in the bible. An interesting comment on books and movies describing non-Jewish brides was very well received by the congregation as well as a Shiur on Kabbalah and Shavuot. A more social approach followed with a lesson on foreigners, refugees, yesterday and today with a focus on Miriam the prophetess, social justice and responsibility. Jews and mountains described some real episodes of Jewish lives that took place at high elevations followed by the story of the Jewish founder of the World Food Program. The evening concluded with an inspiring program of songs.

The following day's Tefillah service was well attended, and at the same time our children enjoyed various activities and a lesson about Shavuot.

Fabio Benjamin Fantini

Beth Hillel Roma accomplishments

We are pleased to announce that recent weeks have witnessed the accomplishment of various initiatives – religious, educational, and cultural. With the participation of many members and supporters, BHR has further expanded the circle of persons interested in its activities. We would like to summarise, in this report, the fundamental principles which have inspired and will continue to inspire the work of BHR, in conformity with our Statutes of Association formally constituted on February 14, 2014.

On our website, which we are rendering ever more detailed and complete, may be found both the statutes and the fundamental principles here summarised.

BHR intends to continue to carry out its mission of presenting a Judaism that is an alternative to orthodoxy (with all due respect to the latter), in the name of Jewish pluralism. BHR views as its interlocutors and potential interlocutors all those who, though starting from different experiences and moved by different needs, agree with those principles, and intends to welcome them equally and give them a voice.

We will attempt, in organising our activities, to come ever closer to meeting the expectations of each one of them.

The Board of Directors of Beth Hillel Roma

Germany

Hamelin News



Hamelin children at the Victory Day celebration

We look back at the month of May, beginning with the impressive and moving Victory Day celebration. This year marks the 70th anniversary of Victory Day, which honours those who fought against Fascism. We thank all our members who invested heart and soul in the many hours of preparation for this memorial day.

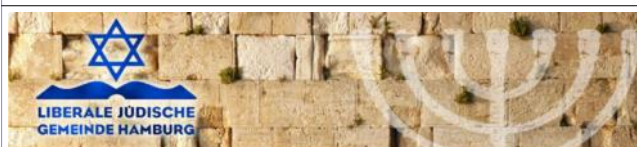
Unfortunately, Rabbi Sascha Lyskovoy could not attend as planned because of the national train strikes, and we thank Peter Wendt for leading Shabbat services. Mr Wendt and our synagogue choir "Shalom" sweetened Friday night services. Saturday morning services and Torah study emphasised

At Shavuot, over luscious slices of cheesecake, a double minyan discussed, "What does the Torah say to me?" It was exciting to see many families and children in shul.

Our traditional Lag B'Omer picnic took place as always in the lovely garden of the Lutheran church. Our Lutheran neighbours extend this invitation to us every year, and we were especially happy to welcome Pastor Sophie Sander to our celebration. Kosher hot dogs were enjoyed hot off the grill as well as a variety of vegetarian dishes and sweet deserts.

Rachel Dohme

Read the full newsletter [here](#).



New Rabbi for Hamburg's Jewish Liberal Community

The Liberal Jewish Community Hamburg (LJGH) has appointed Dr Moshe Navon as their new rabbi for the State of Hamburg and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Rabbi Navon has been the community rabbi with the LJGH since February, and is also a member of the General Rabbinical Conference of Germany and The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR).

Rabbi Navon was ordained at HUC-JIR's Academic

Convocation on November 2, 2007 in Jerusalem. Read more [here](#).

The inauguration of State Liberal Rabbi Navon (Liberaler Landesrabbiner zu Hamburg) took place on June 6 at the Jewish community centre at Flora-Neumann Strasse 1. This event was held as part of an interreligious dialogue "Being with Abraham". This appointment will allow Rabbi Navon to guide the liberal Jewish community in Hamburg.

The LJGH was founded in 1994 in order to provide a spiritual home for those who feel deeply connected with the Progressive movement.



Rabbi Dr Moshe Navon

Liberalen Jüdischen Gemeinde Hamburg e.V.
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70 Years after the Holocaust, Germany a Destination for Rabbinical Students



Abraham Geiger College students l-r: Natalya Verzhebovska, Max Feldhake, Anita Kantor, Amnon Selig, and Maciej Kirschenbaum

Abraham Geiger College students are in the news. Read the story on Radio Free Europe's webpage [here](#).

Read the UpJ newsletter, now also in English and Russian

Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ), the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany, publishes a newsletter in German, now also with English translation. Read and subscribe to it [here](#).

NB: The link to the English translation of the UpJ Newsletter is ready at www.liberale-juden.de. To open it, click on Newsletterarchiv next to the white 'suche' textbox, then on the englischer Sprach link.

-Editor

Belgium

Kabbalah at Beth Hillel Brussels



Tetra-danse aquarelle with Tina Bosi

May has been very active at Beth Hillel. After our Berit Matan Torah on May 10, we closed the month with a two-day seminar about the Hebrew alphabet, led by Frank Lalou and his wife Tina Bosi. Frank is a very well known and respected teacher and artist. Starting from the symbols represented by the Hebrew letters he followed our tradition down to kabbalistic concepts. Each of his seminars was a spiritual journey connecting to our own lives and their key moments.

Tina Bosi, a dancer and a massotherapist, has developed *Tehima*, a way to balance body and soul. She works with the rhythm of the body in order to understand metaphysical concepts. Through techniques close to yoga she links parts of the human body with Hebrew letters.

More than 20 persons attended the seminar. At the end all were very happy with what they had learned and with what they had felt. Many participants have already asked for the next session.

See Frank and Tina's work [here](#) and [here](#).

**Luc Bourgeois, Directeur
Synagogue Beth Hillel
www.beth-hillel.org**



Beth Hillel Fête Talmidi

On Friday June 26 the end of the school year will be celebrated by the classes of the Talmud Torah Beth Hillel with a Talmidi Party, not to be missed! At 19:00 after the Kabbalat Shabbat service, our children will present an original puppet show on the theme of themed matriarchs and patriarchs and a song specially prepared for the occasion. Come to admire their work and encourage them, and do not forget to bring savoury / sweet dishes, salads, breads, cheeses, drinks, etc. for the Talmidi community meal that will close the evening!



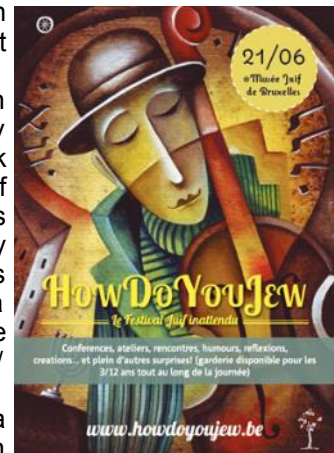
HowDoYouJew

IJC member Anya Topolski was one of the speakers at the 'HowDoYouJew' event at the Jewish Museum in Brussels on June 21st from 11:00 to 18:00.

Anya - together with a Leuven University colleague - gave a talk on the history of anti-Semitism and its links to contemporary Islamophobia. Anya was also involved in a second lecture on peace initiatives in Israel/Palestine.

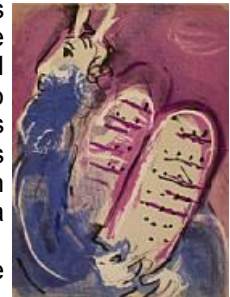
HowDoYouJew was a day-long festival, an opportunity to meet, discuss, produce, cook, dance, sing - in short, an ideal opportunity to relax. There was a choice of activities - debates, workshops, screenings, etc. - and everyone could compose their own day. To see the full program, please click [here](http://www.howdoyoujew.be).

International
Jewish Center
Of Belgium



IJC lecture series continues

'Chagall, His Life and Work' was our latest event in the IJC lecture series. The speaker was Isabel Vermote, an art historian who works for the Royal Fine Arts Museums. She has a Master's degree in art history and in modern history and works as a freelance guide for various institutions as well as for private collections. She also gives lectures about art history and what this can teach us about our world today.



Moses by Chagall

The lecture on Sunday 31 May tied in with the current Marc Chagall exhibition in Brussels. Volunteers made or bought cakes/cookies/fruit to serve after the very enjoyable and informative talk.

Have a good summer!



The EUPJ Newsletter wishes all members and friends of the EUPJ a most enjoyable summer of good weather, peace and prosperity. Please send us articles and photos of your summer events.

**Arthur Buchman, Editor
Gillian Thomas, Assistant Editor**

WORLD
UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



האיגוד
העולמי
ליהדות
מתקדמת

Changing Minds: July's Bergman Seminar for Progressive Jewish Educators still open for registration

Every year, the Bergman Seminar turns Israel into a giant classroom for Progressive Jewish Educators from across the globe. This 10-day professional development seminar, based in Jerusalem, is carefully crafted to provide maximum impact on the work of formal and informal Jewish educators. This year's Bergman Seminar, being held from July 2 to 12, will incorporate art, culture, spirituality, liturgy, Hebrew, history, politics, text study, Jewish values, pedagogy and more.



While this programme is highly regarded for its calibre of speakers and educational content, the magic of the seminar is the diversity of its participants. Last year's seminar attracted exceptional Jewish educators from South Africa, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Argentina, Israel, Australia, Panama, France and the United States.

Sign up [here](#) today!

Torah from around the World

Every week, WUPJ emails *Torah from around the World*, a commentary on the Parashah (Torah portion) of the week by a rabbi from one of its congregations.

To subscribe, please click [here](#).



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IMPJ Newsletter

Click on [this link](#) for the newsletter of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism.

WUPJ 2015 Calendar

July 2-12 - Israel

[Bergman Seminar for Jewish Educators](#)

October 7-22 - Israel and Poland

[Israel - Poland Mission](#)

Rabbi Freeland's Rio sermon



Rabbi Daniel Freeland

[Here](#) is a direct link to Rabbi Danny Freeland's sermon at the WUPJ conference in Rio last month in PDF form.

Profile in Leadership: Meet Carole Sterling, WUPJ's New Chair

Formerly president of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ) and Temple Sinai Congregation and a past chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Women's Campaign, Carole Sterling is the first Canadian to head WUPJ in 20 years.



Carole Sterling

A resident of Toronto for the past several decades, Sterling was elected chair in mid-May during CONNECTIONS 2015, the 37th International Convention of the WUPJ.

Read more in the [Canadian Jewish News](#).

Minhag lesson

Our rabbis taught: A student went down to lead the service before Rabbi Eliezer, and he continued the service too long. Said his students to him [Rabbi Eliezer]: Our teacher, he is one who draws out the prayer. He replied: Does he draw it out more than Moshe our teacher of whom it is written, "And I fell before the Lord the forty days and the forty nights." Another student went down to lead the service before Rabbi Eliezer, and he severely abridged the service. His students said to him: How briefly he prays! He replied: Is he more brief than Moshe our teacher, as is written: "O God, pray, heal her."

Berakhot 34a